

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 402
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

February 4, 2021

Senate Bill 99 – Hate Crimes – Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 99 – Hate Crimes – Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders. This bill would add law enforcement officers and first responders to Maryland's hate crime laws. Extra protection would be given to these individuals against crimes committed against themselves and their property that are motivated by their occupation.

The idea for this bill came after hearing from some of my constituents who were concerned following reports of first responders and law enforcement officers being personally targeted or having their property targeted solely because of their line of work. Personally, there were two recent incidents that seriously disturbed me. The first was the vandalism of the Fraternal Order of Police's lodge in Baltimore this summer. While many individuals chose to exercise their First Amendment right to peaceably assemble, the actions of these rioters went beyond any legitimate right to protest. The second took place just a few weeks ago in Prince George's County, where an officer was recently shot at while on the scene of a murder by suspects who made anti-police statements prior to shooting at the officer.

As a retired first responder, this is personal to me. I have seen firsthand the dangers that our police and first responders face every day. I don't believe any person should be targeted for crimes against themselves or their property based on their profession. These brave men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day should not be targeted for their heroic efforts and, as a State, we should make it clear that we will protect and support our first responders and law enforcement by holding those who would attack them based on their profession responsible to the fullest extent of the law.

Senate Bill 99 will help protect the first responders and the law enforcement officers who we all know from intentional harm. I respectfully request a favorable report on this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties